

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 07211 051834Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 SY-05 SAB-02 CU-04 SS-15
NSC-05 SP-02 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 FBOE-00 A-01
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 /068 W
-----065405 051843Z /46
P 051755Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4001

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINS, PDIP, ASEC
SUBJECT: PROTEST TO FOREIGN MINISTER ON CAR BURNING INCIDENT

REF: PANAMA 7178

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PROTEST NOTE DELIVERED OCTOBER 5 TO
ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER OZORES:

ZI HAVE THE HONOR TO CALL YOUR EXCELLENCY'S ATTENTION TO A
GRIEVOUS INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED YESTERDAY, OCTOBER 4, AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA.

"AT THE INVITATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA AND THE EMBASSY
OF MEXICO, I ATTENDED THE INAUGURATION OF AN EXHIBITION
OF 25 YEARS OF MEXICAN ARCHITECTURE HELD IN THE FOYER OF THE
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA. I
TRAVELLED TO THE EXHIBIT IN THE OFFICIAL VEHICLE OF THE UNITED
STATES AMBASSADOR WILLIAM J. JORDEN.

"WHILE I WAS VIEWING THE EXHIBIT A NUMBER OF STUDENTS SURROUNDED
THE UNOCCUPIED VEHICLE AND BEGAN STONING IT. SINCE IT WAS
IMPOSSIBLE TO DEPART FROM THE UNIVERSITY IN THE AMBASSADOR'S
VEHICLE, I WAS INVITED BY OFFICIALS FROM THE SCHOOL OF
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PAGE 02 PANAMA 07211 051834Z

ARCHITECTURE TO WAIT IN THE DEAN'S OFFICE UNTIL THE AGITATION
STOPPED. LATER I WAS ADVISED THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO
LEAVE THE VEHICLE UNTIL THE STUDENTS DISPERSED. I WAS
ACCOMPANIED BY A UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL IN HIS PRIVATE VEHICLE
BACK TO THE CHANCERY, AND I APPRECIATE THE CONCERN FOR MY
PERSONAL SAFETY SHOWN BY OFFICIALS OF THE UNIVERSITY AND THE
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE.

"UPON MY RETURN TO THE CHANCERY, AS YOUR EXCELLENCY IS AWARE, I INFORMED YOUR OFFICE AND REQUESTED THAT ACTION BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY TO AVOID A POTENTIALLY MORE SERIOUS INCIDENT. AN OFFICIAL OF THE EMBASSY ALSO INFORMED THE NATIONAL GUARD.

"AN EMBASSY OFFICIAL WHO WAS AT THE SCENE REPORTED THAT STUDENTS MADE INFLAMMATORY SPEECHES FROM ATOP THE VEHICLE AND INCITED THE LARGE CROWD THAT HAD ASSEMBLED TO OVERTURN THE VEHICLE AND SET IT ON FIRE. NEWS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE STUDENTS ALSO PREVENTED FIREMEN FROM TWO FIRE VEHICLES WHICH WERE SUMMONED FROM EXTINGUISHING THE FIRE. AS A RESULT, THE VEHICLE WAS TOTALLY DESTROYED.

"EXCELLENCY, I MUST PROTEST IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS THIS COMPLETELY UNWARRANTED AND MALICIOUS DEED ON THE PART OF THE STUDENTS AND THE FAILURE OF THE PANAMANIAN AUTHORITIES TO TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION TO STOP THE STONING AND BURNING OF THE AMBASSADOR'S VEHICLE. VIOLENT INCIDENTS OF THIS NATURE CAN ONLY SERVE TO ENCOURAGE THOSE ELEMENTS WHO SEEK TO POISEN THE FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

"IN MAKING THIS PROTEST, I REQUEST ASSURANCES FROM YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT IN THE FUTURE THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS AS WELL AS OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.
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PAGE 03 PANAMA 07211 051834Z

I ALSO REQUEST RESTITUTION OF THE VALUE OF THE VEHICLE."
(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE)
GONZALEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
Film Number: D770363-0582
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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